

Application for United States Patent
Declaration and Power of Attorney

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

COPPER ALLOY VIA BOTTOM LINER

(check one) is attached hereto
 was filed on _____ as
Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a).*

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s) Priority Claimed

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| <u>None</u> (Number) | <u>(Country)</u> | <u>(Day/Month/Year Filed)</u> | <u>yes</u> | <u>no</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

None (Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

Power of Attorney: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint as attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

All patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 32074.

Correspondence Address: All correspondence should be directed to Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, PC, 11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340, Reston, Virginia 20190. Telephone calls should be directed to Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C. at (703) 787-9400. This correspondence address is associated with customer number 30743.

IBM Docket: FIS9-2004-0159

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

(1) Inventor: Daniel C. Edelstein
Signature: Daniel C. Edelstein Date: 7/6/2004
Residence: 15 Charlotte Street, White Plains, NY 10606
Citizenship: US
Post Office Address: Same As Residence

(2) Inventor: Edward C. Cooney, III
Signature: Edward C. Cooney Date: 7/6/04
Residence: 16 South Main Street, Jericho, VT 05465
Citizenship: US
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(3) Inventor: John A. Fitzsimmons
Signature: _____ Date: _____
Residence: 51 Skyview Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
Citizenship: US
Post Office Address: Same As Residence

(4) Inventor: Jeffrey P. Gambino
Signature: Jeffrey P. Gambino Date: 7/6/04
Residence: 98 Huntley Road, Westford, VT 05494
Citizenship: US
Post Office Address: Same As Residence

(5) Inventor: Anthony K. Stamper
Signature: Anthony K. Stamper Date: 7/7/04
Residence: 46 Evergreen Drive, Williston, VT 05495
Citizenship: US
Post Office Address: Same As Residence

Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a):

(a) A duty of candor and good faith toward the Patent and Trademark Office rests on the inventor, on each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application and on every other individual who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application. All such individuals have a duty to disclose to the Office information they are aware of which is material to the examination of the application. Such information is material where there is substantial likelihood that a reasonable examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent. The duty is commensurate with the degree of involvement in the preparation or prosecution of the application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Signature: 

7/01/2004

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7/02/2004

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(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and (1) it establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability; or (2) it refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in: (i) opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or (ii) asserting an argument of patentability.